

Wigan Rural District Council



ANNUAL

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1943



WIGAN:

J. STARR & SONS, LTD., Dawber Street Works

1944

Wigan Rural District Council



Chairman :

S. HORRIDGE, ESQ., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

E. T. HAMPSON, ESQ., J.P.

Councillors :

C. BUNKER, ESQ.

H. R. DEARDEN, ESQ.

J. GRAHAM, ESQ.

R. I. RANDALL, ESQ.

Clerk :

W. GORDON PIGOT, Solicitor.

Staff Public Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DOROTHY M. JAMES, M.D., D.P.H.

Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDING.

Water Inspector :

W. R. WRIGHT.

Bank Chambers,
Wallgate,
Wigan,

September, 1944.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report for the year 1943.

As in the previous year, the Report has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular. Again, for reasons of security, a detailed report of the Civil Defence Services cannot be given, but I consider the Services are working smoothly and appear adequate.

I wish to thank you for your very kindly interest taken in all matters affecting the Health and Sanitation of the District. I also take this opportunity of thanking Mr. J. Holding and other members of the Staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DOROTHY M. JAMES,
M.D., D.P.H.

Wigan Rural District Council

GENERAL STATISTICS

Acreage of Townships	11,696
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,252
Rateable Value of District	£41,547
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£165

VITAL STATISTICS

For the duration of the War parts of the Vital Statistics have been excluded from the Report.

DEATHS.—93 Deaths, 35 Males and 58 females, occurred during the year 1943, compared with 92 in 1942.

The causes of Death were:—

Deaths from Puerperal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.
other Puerperal Causes	Nil.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

Deaths from all causes	Males	Females
T.B. Respiratory.....	1	3
T.B. Non-Respiratory	1	2
Influenza	Nil.	2
Cancer of Uterus	Nil.	1
Cancer of Stomach.....	Nil.	1
Cancer of Breast	Nil.	3
Cancer of all other sites	1	6
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	3	7
Heart Disease	11	11
Encephalitis	Nil.	1
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	Nil.	1
Bronchitis	3	3
Pneumonia	4	1
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	1	Nil.
Gastric Ulcer	1	Nil.
Diarrhoea under 2 years.....	Nil.	1
Other Digestive Diseases	Nil.	2
Nephritis	Nil.	2
Diabetes	Nil.	1

	Male	Female
Congenital Malformation	Nil.	1
Road Traffic Act	1	Nil.
Other Violent Causes.....	2	Nil.
All other Causes	6	9
	35	58

The number of deaths in each Township was as follows:

Shevington	29
Wrightington	30
Parbold	13
Haigh	12
Dalton	4
Worthington	5
	93

CANCER.—12 deaths occurred from Cancer in 1943, compared with 9 in 1942.

INFANTILE DEATHS.—3 Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age occurred in 1943, 1 male and 2 females compared with 5 during 1942.

INFECTIOUS FEVERS.—99 cases of Infectious Fevers were notified compared with 94 cases in 1942.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1942 :

Disease	Admitted Hospital	Total Cases all ages	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	Over 65-	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	1	12				1	1	6	3	1					
Pneumonia		7		2				1		1			3		
Diphtheria	9	9				1		3		1	2	2			
Measles		45	2		4	2	5	29	1		2				
Puerperal Pyrexia		1									1				
Whooping Cough		9	1	3			2	2		1					
Chicken Pox		16	1		1		2	9	2		1				
TOTALS	10	99	4	5	5	4	10	50	6	4	6	2	3		Nil

Distribution over the several parishes was as follows:-

Wrightington

Diphtheria	3 cases
Scarlet Fever	5 „
Whooping Cough	5 „
Measles.....	11 „
Pneumonia	1 „
Chicken Pox	5 „
	30

Dalton

Diphtheria	1 case
	1

Parbold.

Whooping Cough	2 cases
Chicken Pox	11 „
Measles	20 „
Pneumonia	2 „
Diphtheria	1 „
	36

Shevington

Pneumonia	1 cases
Scarlet Fever	6 „
Diphtheria	1 „
Measles	9 „
Whooping Cough	2 „
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1 „
	20

Haigh.

Measles	5 cases.
Diphtheria	3 „
Pneumonia	3 „
Scarlet Fever.....	1 „
	12

DIPHTHERIA.

DIPHTHERIA.—Nine cases of Diphtheria occurred in the district and all the cases were removed to the Whelley Hospital. The average age of four of the patients was 20 years. Two of the cases occurred in the Wrightington Hospital, one was a patient and the other a member of the Nursing Staff.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.—The immunisation of the children against diphtheria was continued during the year 1943, and I am again able to report that there has been a very satisfactory response by the parents of the Rural District. The campaign is still being pressed with vigour. School children are treated at the schools with the co-operation of the Head Teachers, while the pre-school children are treated either at the schools or at the Child Welfare Centre. The injections are given by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by the School Nurse. The immunising agent used is Alum precipitated toxoid in doses of 0.2.c.c. followed by 0.5.c.c. a month later.

Total number of children immunised since commencement of the Scheme in October, 1940.

Ages.			1940		1941		1942		1943		Total.	
Under	1	Year	.....	1	...	3	...	—	...	1	...	5
	1	„	.....	4	...	26	...	28	...	53	...	111
	2	years	.....	5	...	30	...	15	...	16	...	66
	3	„	.....	8	...	34	...	20	...	15	...	77
	4	„	.....	2	...	26	...	23	...	17	...	68
	5	„	.....	12	...	90	...	34	...	11	...	147
	6	„	.....	11	...	69	...	15	...	11	...	106
	7	„	.....	28	...	64	...	6	...	7	...	105
	8	„	.....	19	...	48	...	7	...	4	...	78
	9	„	.....	23	...	57	...	8	...	3	...	91
	10	„	.....	32	...	45	...	5	...	1	...	83
	11	„	.....	25	...	48	...	6	...	—	...	79
	12	„	.....	19	...	45	...	7	...	2	...	73
	13	„	.....	12	...	34	...	2	...	3	...	51
	14	„	.....	4	...	2	...	—	...	3	...	9
					...		...		...		...	
				205	...	621	...	176	...	147	...	1149

Schick Tests.

Distribution over the several parishes was as follows:—

	1940	1941	1942	1943
Wrightington	50	135	51	35
Dalton	38	40	8	—
Parbold	21	75	16	17
Shevington	82	332	82	83
Crooke				
Worthington	Nil.	23	9	7
Haigh	14	16	10	5
	205	621	176	147

TUBERCULOSIS.—The notifications received during the Year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows :—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943.								
NEW CASES.					DEATHS.			
Age Periods.	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
5	...	...	6	5	...	1	...	...
10	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
20	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...
35	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	1
45	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65-over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	3	3	11	12	1	3	1	2

Two cases of Tuberculosis were notified after death took place. Generally notification is prompt and satisfactory. The County Council provide facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for the Wigan Rural District is in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own Doctor or by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

SCHOOLS.

A School Clinic is provided by the County Council at Ashfield House, Standish, where children may attend for inspection and treatment for minor ailments. The Clinic has been very well attended. Unfortunately as yet, there is no Dental Clinic in the area. In August arrangements were made for an Ophthalmic Surgeon to attend the Clinic once a fortnight, and this has proved a very satisfactory addition to the services. The Clinic is open for these purposes as follows :—

- Monday 9-30 a.m. to 12noon. Medical Officer and Nurse attends.
- Thursday 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon. Minor Ailments. (Nurse only).
- Friday 1-30 p.m. (Fortnightly) Ophthalmic Clinic.

The Routine Medical Inspections of children in the schools are carried out by the Medical Officer in her capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer. Close co-operation exists between the Medical Officer of Health, the School Teachers and the School Attendance Officer, the latter supplies a weekly return of the School Children who are absent from the school through sickness.

The County Council Health Visitor follows up the cases for whom the Medical Officer recommends treatment at the time of the school inspections. The Nurse also visits the schools regularly for the purpose of Cleanliness Inspections, and also visits the parents to give advice to cases in which the standard is unsatisfactory.

SCHOOL CLOSURES.—It has not been found necessary to close the schools during the year, but in December Influenza was prevalent and a large percentage of the school children were absent from school on account of the disease.

MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE.—An Infant Welfare Clinic is provided by the County Council at the Parish Rooms, Shevington. The Medical Officer attends the Fourth Tuesday of the Month, and the Health Visitor attends the Second and Fourth Tuesdays of the Month, from 1-30 to 4-0 p.m. The Milk Officer also attends at the Clinic on the above dates, for the purpose of distributing Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices, under the Government Scheme.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—A good supply of water is available in all Parishes, though there are still isolated houses which have their own private supplies.

The Parishes obtain supplies from the following sources:—

HAIGH	Blackrod U.D.C.	} Upland Surface Water
WORTHINGTON	Standish U.D.C.	
SHEVINGTON	Standish U.D.C.	
PARBOLD	Own Supply	Deep Well Water
WRIGHTINGTON	Own Supply	Deep Well and Spring Water
DALTON	Wrightington	do.

CONVERSIONS.—During the year 4 privy closets were converted to fresh W.C's. and 2 to pails. Movable ashbins were provided to 6 houses to replace ashpits.

The Council do not contribute towards the cost of conversions, and all the foregoing have been done in response to informal notices.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Scavenging of the district is carried out by direct labour, and the Council's own Motor Wagon.

SALVAGE.—Sorting out and Collecting materials essential to the War effort is also carried out by the refuse collectors and the following are the details of material sold during the year :—

T.	C.	Q.		Value.		
				£	s.	d.
45	17	0	Baled Mixed Paper	212	1	4
1	16	2	Bones	8	13	5
1	6	1	Rags	7	4	5
16	2	3	Loose Tins	12	9	5
65	2	2		£240	8	7

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.—Building development upon the outbreak of war practically stopped. Drainage is discharged into septic tanks, and the effluent into the nearest watercourse, or in some instances into the Council's sewer.

NEW BUILDINGS.—During 1943, no new dwelling houses were erected in the Rural District.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Lime washing is carried out twice during the year or as often as may be necessary. The number of Cowkeepers who are Accredited Producers is 9.

MILK SAMPLING.—Samples are taken quarterly by the Sanitary Inspector of all milk in the district supplied to School children.

No. of Dairy Farms in the District	84
Approximate Number of Cows.....	500
No. of Cowkeepers (including Dairy Farms)	138
Number on Register	138
Number of Inspections during the year	110
Dairymen other than cowkeepers	6
Number on Register	6

MEAT INSPECTIONS.—There are two registered slaughter houses with shops attached. Periodic inspections are made and any unsound meat rejected.

DOROTHY M. JAMES,
Medical Officer of Health.

